

# Epistle of Farewell

To the People of God called

## QUAKERS.

Where Ever Scattered or Gathered in *England, Ireland, Scotland, Holland, Germany,*  
or in any other Parts of *Europe.*

**M**Y Dearly Beloved, and Highly  
Esteemed in *Christ*, our heavenly  
Head; the Living and Good Shep-  
herd of the Sheep, by whom we  
have been found out (one of a Fa-  
mily, and two of a Tribe) and made One holy  
Flock and Family unto Him, in this day of his  
Spiritual and Glorious Appearance: *Grace, Mer-*  
*cy and Peace*, yea, His *Peace*, *Which the World*  
*can neither give you, nor take from you*, be plenti-  
fully multiplied amongst you from day to day,  
that a holy, harmless, and faithful People you  
may be, yielding to the Lord the Fruits of his  
A Goodness,

Goodness, by a *Circumspect* and *Self-denying* Conversation to the End.

And now, my dear Friends, whom I Know and Love, and you also whom I truly love, tho' I do Not Know Personally, nor may be so known of some of you, since it has pleased the Good and All-wise God to order my Course from you, so that I cannot visit you; as I have often desired, before I left you: This therefore is to be my Brotherly Farewell unto you. And surely my Soul is Bowed in Humble Petitions to Israel's God, The True, and Living, and Powerful God, that it may be well with you all, here and for ever. And, my Dear Brethren, this is certain, if you Do well, you shall certainly Fare well, and in the End of all your Trials, Troubles, and Temptations, it shall be said unto you, *well Done*, Good and Faithful Servants, Enter ye into the Joy of the Lord. O it is that which crowns the work. Not Saying but Doing, we must not only Begin, but End well; and hold out to the End. Not of those who are weary of Well-doing, but who follow the Lord fully, as Caleb and Joshua did in old time, and are Famed for it. So that tho' God has Appeared to us, and Given us many and undeniable Testimonies that it was He, and not Another, who Reached our Hearts, and Touched our Consciences, and brought us to Confession, yea, and Forsaking too, of that which offend-  
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ed Him, in great measure, Blessed be his Name, yet we are not to stop, or take up our Rest here : *We must Watch still, Pray still, Fight still, that good Fight of Faith, till we have overcome the Enemy of our Souls :* And even then must we Watch and Pray, and that to the End of our Days ; that we may not lose that Crown of Glory, which God the Righteous Judge, shall give to all those that love his Appearance, overcome, and persevere to the End : For be assured we shall reap if we faint not : But we shall faint if we wait not upon God, who alone is the Strength of his People.

This, My Dear Friends, is that which lies with greatest stress upon my Spirit ; *Watch to your Dayly Preservation, and be not satisfied unless you feel it. Sufficient is the Day for the Evil thereof,* say'd our Blessed Lord. God is not wanting : He that long stood at the Door of our Hearts, under our Impenitency in times past, till his Locks were wet with the Dew, and his Hair with the Drops of the Night, till we were wakened out of our Carnal Security, and came to Judgment in our selves, unto unfeigned Repentance, to be sure he is not weary of waiting to be Gracious now to his poor People ; Especially if they are Poor in Spirit, and hungry and thirsting after Righteousness ; and are not fill'd, overlaid, and choak'd with the Cares and Incumbrances of this World. No, He was ever Good unto Israel, yea, unto

*all that are of an upright and clean Heart :* Wherefore, Brethren, let your Eye be to the Lord, and wait often upon him ; Walk with him, and Dwell with him, and he will Walk and Dwell with you : And then no *Weapon form'd against you*, be it in Particular, or in General, *shall prosper* ; that is, not finally. It may perhaps Try you, and *bruise your Heel*, as it did your Lord and Master's, but it shall never finally *Prevail* against you, if you keep the Eye of your Minds to him, and have faith in him, who saved *Daniel* in the Lyons Den, and *Shadrach, Meshach* and *Abednego* in the fiery Furnace, and has upheld us to this Day under various Afflictions. And tho' *Balaams* there are, that may be hired by the *Balaks* of our Age, to Curse our Israel-Family of God, of which some of us have been very sensible ; Yet this we know, *The Son of God is among us*, who commands the *Fire*, and the *Water*, and the *Winds*, as well now as then : And there is no *Incantment* against *Jacob*, or *Divination* against *Israel*, that can prosper. And who knows but even some of these present *Balaams* may yet live to say, before they dye, as others of them have done since we were a People, *How goodly are thy Tents*, O *Jacob* ! *How pleasant is thy dwelling place*, O *Israel* ! But then, Friends, we must keep our *Tents*, we must be a *Retired* and a *Peculiar* People, and dwell alone. We must keep *above* the World, and clear of the Spirit of it, and those

those many *Trifles, Cares and Troubles* that abound in it, with which but too many have visibly wounded and pierced their own Souls.

Beware of this in the Name of the Lord, and do not *Tempt God*; it is in Christ ye have Peace, in the World is the Trouble: Keep therefore in him who has called himself (and we have found him so) the *Way, Truth and Life*; and you shall live because he lives: He the *Root*, you the *Branches*, by whom you will be kept Green and Fruitful, bringing forth the Fruits and Graces of the Holy Spirit, in all your Converse, and Commerce, that it may be seen and said, God is with you, and amongst you. O let *Humility, Charity, Meekness and Self-denial* shine amongst you; so will you come to fit, as did the Primitive Christians, in *Heavenly Places in Christ Jesus*, and be preserved through the *Noise, Snares and Hurry* of this present Evil World.

Much I could say, for my Heart is open, and full too of Divine Love and Matter to you; but time fails me; therefore feel me, my Dear Friends, in that Love of God which is over Sea and Land; where Distance cannot Separate, or Time Decay, nor many Waters quench. In which Love I *Embrace and Salute* you all, with the Kifs of our heavenly Fellowship, which the Lord hath given us in the Blessed Truth. And my strong Desires are to him, that we may maintain our blessed Relation by the same



same means, by which we came at first into it, viz. the true *Fear and Love of God*; which did not only make us careful, not to offend him, but also to be willing to *for sake all things* that came in *Competition* with him, or our Duty to him,

Oh let this *Chaste Fear and first Love* abound amongst you, my Beloved, in *Christ*, our Blessed Light and Life; or you will *Decay, Wither, and Dye* to God, and your Good Beginnings; which God Almighty forbid.

I know there is a *Serious and Diligent* People amongst you, who do not only know when *Good comes* from the hand of the Lord, but wait upon him for it, and that dayly: That their Souls may be strengthened in the way and work of the Lord: And these can no more live without his Presence, his *mystical and hidden Manna*, in their Spiritual Journey, to the *Eternal Canaan* of God, than outward Israel was able to live without *Manna* in the Wilderness in their Journey to their *temporal Canaan*. And I Beseech my God and my Father, and your God and your Father, my Dear Brethren, to attend all these holy Waiters upon him with the *good things of his House*, and Dayly make them Glad in his Holy House of *Prayer*.

But the Condition of some, who pretend to follow *Christ*, yet are afar off, affects my Spirit; for they know little of these Enjoyments, and hardly

ly Eat so much as the *Crumbs* that fall from Christ's Table, and seem to satisfy themselves with a mere *Convincement* of the Truth, or at best with a bare *Confession* to it. Who taking up with a formal Going to Meetings, and Hearing what others have to say of the Work and Goodness of God in and to them, they *shun the Daily Cross of Christ*. Whereby they should *dye daily* to their earthly Wills and vain Affections, and *Overcome the World, the Flesh and the Devil*. Oh! these are still their own, and not the Lord's; and gird themselves, and go *Whither, and do What they list*. For which cause they are *Lean, Barren and Unfruitful* to God and to their own Souls; and Worship him in the *Form only*, and not in the *Power of Godliness*; such must needs be *weak in Faith*, ready to *slip and start aside* at every windy Doctrine, or sensual Temptation.

Oh! My Dear Friends, let me prevail with you in this my *Farewell* to you, to turn your Minds *inward*, and wait to feel your Redeemer, and meet him in the way of his *Righteous Judgments*; for there is no Redemption but *through Judgment*, nor Conversion, but *through Righteousness*. Come and be baptized by Christ; He will Baptize you with his *Fire* and *Holy Ghost*. He will Scour and *Rinse* you; for, believe me, his *Fan is still in his Hand*, and *he will*, if you will let him, *thoroughly purge his Floor*, viz. your *Hearts*; and make all things *Clean and New* there; by

his Spirit and Power. So will you Come to find your Interest in Christ, as you *feel his Workmanship and Interest in and over you.* And as you thus come to be related to Christ, the *Heavenly Head* (by knowing him to be *Head in you*) so will you come to be related to his Body, the *Church*, and see your *Proper Membership*, and *Service* therein; which I pray God effect, to his Glory and your Comfort.

And now to the whole Family and Flock of God in this *European* part of the World, of the same *Communion* according to the Dispensation of God, be they *High or Low, Young or Old, Rich or Poor, Wise or Simple, Strong or Weak, Male or Female, Bond or Free*, I send this parting Salutation, of my most Dear Love in the Truth; beseeching you all to have *Me and Mine* in your *Remembrance*, not only when upon the *mighty Waters*, but when in the *Solitary Desarts of America*, if it please the Lord to bring us safe thither: For I am not above the Love and Prayers of my Dear Brethren, knowing I need them, and have often found, by Good Experience, *that they avail much with the Lord.*

I must leave you, but I can never forget you; for my Love to you has been, even as *David's* and *Jonathan's*, above the Love of Women: And suffer me to say, That, to my Power, I have from the first endeavoured to serve you (and my poor Country too) and that at my own Charges, with an upright Mind, however mis-understood and treated by some, whom I heartily forgive. Accept you my Services, and ever Love and Remember, My Dear Friends and Brethren, your Old, True and Affectionate Friend, Brother and Servant, in Christ Jesus,

*Come, Isle of White, weighing  
Anchor the 3d of the 7th  
Month, 1699.*

*William Penn.*

F I N I S.



